

We claim:

- ✓ 1. A computer-implemented method comprising:
- receiving a document;
- generating a priority of the document based on a document classifier; and,
- 5 alerting a user to the document based on a predetermined criteria.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a document comprises receiving an email.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises playing a sound based on the predetermined criteria.
- 10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises opening the document based on the predetermined criteria.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein opening the document based on the predetermined criteria comprises sizing the document based on the priority of the document.
- 15 6. The method of claim 4, wherein opening the document based on the predetermined criteria comprises centrally locating the document based on the priority of the document.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises giving the document focus based on the predetermined criteria.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises opening an agent based on the predetermined criteria.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises alerting the user based on the priority being within a predetermine priority range.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises:  
determining whether the user is busy;  
determining whether the priority of the document is greater than a predetermined  
10 threshold; and,  
upon determining that the user is busy, alerting the user only upon determining that the priority of the document is greater than the predetermined threshold.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the user comprises displaying a plurality of documents including the document in order according to a priority of each document.

15 12. The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the plurality of documents comprises displaying only documents having a priority greater than a predetermined threshold.

✓ 13. A computer-implemented method comprising:  
training a document classifier comprising one of a Bayesian classifier and a

support-vector machine classifier;

receiving a document comprising an email;

generating a priority of the document based on the document classifier; and,

alerting a user to the document based on a predetermined criteria.

5 14. The method of claim 13, wherein alerting the user comprises at least one of playing a sound and opening the document based on the predetermined criteria.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein alerting the user comprises opening an agent based on the predetermined criteria.

10 16. The method of claim 13, wherein alerting the user comprises alerting the user based on the priority being within a predetermine priority range.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein alerting the user comprises:  
determining whether the user is busy;  
determining whether the priority of the document is greater than a predetermined threshold; and,

15 upon determining that the user is busy, alerting the user only upon determining that the priority of the document is greater than the predetermined threshold.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein alerting the user comprises displaying a plurality of documents including the document in order according to a priority of each document.

✓ 19. A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving a document;

generating a priority of the document based on a document classifier; and,

5 alerting a user to the document based on a predetermined criteria.

20. The medium of claim 19, wherein receiving a document comprises receiving an email.

21. The medium of claim 19, wherein alerting the user comprises at least one of playing a sound and opening the document based on the predetermined criteria.

10 22. The medium of claim 19, wherein alerting the user comprises opening an agent based on the predetermined criteria.

23. The medium of claim 19, wherein alerting the user comprises alerting the user based on the priority being within a predetermine priority range.

15 24. The medium of claim 19, wherein alerting the user comprises:  
determining whether the user is busy;  
determining whether the priority of the document is greater than a predetermined threshold; and,

upon determining that the user is busy, alerting the user only upon determining that the priority of the document is greater than the predetermined threshold.

25. The medium of claim 19, wherein alerting the user comprises displaying a plurality of documents including the document in order according to a priority of each document.

26. A computerized system comprising:

5 a program to generate a document;

a document classifier to generate a priority of the document; and,

an alerting mechanism to alert a user of the document based on a predetermined criteria.

27. The system of claim 26, further comprising a viewer to filter documents including  
10 the document by the priority thereof.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the alerting mechanism employs at least one scalar parameter to define the manner by which an alerting sound is rendered, based on the priority of the document.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein the user is able to define thresholds among  
15 different ranges of uncertainty, and specify multiple options involving the automation of sizing and centering of documents including the document within each range.

30. The system of claim 26, further comprising a brief to provide the user a summary of documents including the document, that have arrived while the user was one of away or busy within another application.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the summary of the document has a summarization level, such that the summarization level decreases as a function of the priority of the document.

32. The system of claim 26, further comprising an interaction context that is active for  
5 a period of time following an alert that the document has exceeded a threshold.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the user is able to make a gesture while the interaction context is active to view the document.

34. The system of claim 26, wherein the program comprises an electronic mail program to receive an electronic mail as the document.

10 35. The system of claim 26, wherein the document classifier comprises a Bayesian document classifier.

36. The system of claim 26, wherein the document classifier comprises a support-vector-machine classifier.

15 37. The system of claim 26, wherein the alerting mechanism comprises a sound-playing mechanism.

38. The system of claim 26, wherein the alerting mechanism comprises a document-displaying mechanism.

39. The system of claim 38, wherein the document-displaying mechanism is to display the document centrally based on the priority of the document.

40. The system of claim 38, wherein the document-displaying mechanism is to size the document based on the priority of the document.

5 41. The system of claim 26, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a determination of whether the priority of the document is within a predetermined range.

42. The system of claim 26, wherein the predetermined criteria comprises a determination of whether the user is busy.

43. The system of claim 26, wherein at least one of the alerting mechanism, the  
10 program and the document classifier comprise a computer program executed by a processor from a computer-readable medium.

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